United Nations E/CN.7/2018/L.7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
12 February 2018

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Sixty-first session
Vienna, 12–16 March 2018
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session

Norway and Sweden: draft resolution

Promoting measures to prevent transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases associated with the use of drugs from mothers to babies during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[2] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[3] in which States parties expressed concern for the health and welfare of humankind,

Recalling the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016,[4] in which Member States recommended inviting relevant national authorities to consider effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse, including medication-assisted therapy programmes, injecting equipment programmes as well as antiretroviral therapy and other relevant interventions that prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne infections associated with drug use, as well as considering ensuring access to such interventions, including in treatment and outreach services, prisons and other custodial settings, and promoting in that regard the use of the *Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*, published by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,

Recalling also the commitments made in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the

* E/CN.7/2018/1.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

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AIDS Epidemic by 2030[5] to provide effective measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse,

Recalling further its resolutions 60/8 of 17 March 2017 concerning prevention of HIV and other blood-borne diseases related to drug use and financing such efforts, 56/6 of 15 March 2013 concerning intensifying the efforts related to reducing HIV transmission among people who use drugs, 54/13 of 25 March 2011 on achieving zero new infections of HIV among injecting and other drug users, and 53/9 of 12 March 2010 on achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for drug users and people living with or affected by HIV,

Recalling its resolution 59/5 of 22 March 2016 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into drug-related policies and programmes, and underlining the importance of taking into account the challenges and needs faced by women and girls who use drugs or are affected by the drug use of others and of mainstreaming a gender perspective into national drug policies,

Taking note with appreciation of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/2 of 26 May 2017, entitled "Ensuring access to measures for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in prisons",

Reaffirming that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem and is the convening agency for addressing HIV and drug use and HIV in prison settings, within the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS division of labour, in close partnership with the World Health Organization and the secretariat of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and in collaboration with other co-sponsors of the Programme,

Gravely concerned about the social barriers, including poverty, that continue to hinder the access of women to treatment for drug use and, in some cases, a lack of sufficient resources allocated for removing those barriers, and fully aware that women are disproportionately affected by particular consequences of drug abuse, such as sexually transmitted diseases, violence and drug-facilitated crime,

Noting with alarm the slow progress in reducing new HIV infections and the limited scale of combination prevention programmes, noting that many national HIV prevention, testing and treatment programmes provide insufficient access to services for women and adolescent girls, migrants and key populations that epidemiological evidence shows are globally at higher risk of HIV, specifically people who inject drugs, who are 24 times more likely to acquire HIV than adults in the general population, and prisoners, who are 5 times more likely to be living with HIV than adults in the general population, and also noting that, among people who inject drugs and are also living with HIV, 82.4 per cent are co-infected with the hepatitis C virus and that hepatitis C is becoming a major cause of morbidity and mortality,

Reaffirming the commitment in the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] to ensure that in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration,

Acknowledging the importance of providing women in prison and women who use drugs with access to comprehensive health services aimed at preventing and treating HIV infection, including preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as eliminating mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B and syphilis and making available sexual and reproductive health-care services and, for those living with HIV, free and continued antiretroviral therapy, given that such therapy is the most effective method of preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV and that securing the health of women improves the chances of babies being born free of HIV,

[5] General Assembly resolution 70/266, annex.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

Acknowledging also the progress made since the launch of the Global Plan towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive: 2011–2015, including the fact that an estimated 85 countries are within reach of elimination of mother-to-child transmission, while noting that continued efforts are greatly needed,

Noting with appreciation that the number of new HIV infections among children globally declined by 50 per cent between 2010 and 2015, owing to the effective roll-out of interventions to prevent the vertical transmission of HIV,

Noting that, in order to minimize the transmission of HIV from mother to child, it is stated in the *Guidance on Global Scale-up of the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV*[7] that additional efforts will be needed within and outside the public health sector to reach marginalized population groups such as women who inject drugs and women who sell sex,

Noting with concern that, outside sub-Saharan Africa, 20 per cent of all new HIV infections take place among people who use drugs, almost 12 million people worldwide inject drugs, of whom one in eight, or 1.6 million people, are living with HIV and more than half, or 6.1 million people, are living with hepatitis C, and that the risk of transmitting viral hepatitis C from mother to baby is approximately 5 per cent, with higher rates in women who are co-infected with HIV,

1. *Urges* Member States, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[8] to strengthen their efforts and take measures aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, achieve gender equality, contribute to the elimination of the transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis from mother to child, including among women who use drugs, and, to this end, strive to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5 and 16;

2. *Also urges* Member States to ensure, in accordance with Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to health-care services in order to secure the highest attainable standard of health, and to provide appropriate preventive health care, guidance for parents, family planning education and services, and prenatal and postnatal health care for women who use drugs;

3. *Further urges* Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure continued political commitment to combating HIV among people who use drugs, in particular people who inject drugs, and to strive to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 3.3, to end the epidemics of AIDS and other communicable diseases by 2030;

4. *Urges* Member States to provide information, education and counselling regarding sexual and reproductive health-related issues to women who use drugs, in particular with regard to the prevention of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, syphilis and unwanted pregnancies;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, when initiating or providing medically assisted therapy for drug dependence to women, to also offer and encourage the voluntary and informed use of contraceptives, preferably long-acting, to avoid unwanted pregnancies;

6. *Requests* Member States to ensure that confidentiality and informed consent are respected with respect to HIV-related treatment of persons, in particular for women who use drugs and women in prisons, including when providing necessary sexual and reproductive health-care services relevant to HIV and when treating other blood-borne diseases, including hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis;

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[7] Inter-Agency Task Team on Prevention of HIV Infection in Pregnant Women, Mothers and their Children (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2007).

[8] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

7. *Encourages* Member States to provide services for women who use drugs in line with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publication entitled *Addressing the Specific Needs of Women who Inject Drugs: Practical Guide for Service Providers on Gender-responsive HIV Services* and the World Health Organization guidelines relevant to HIV treatment, comprehensive HIV services for key populations, testing and treatment of hepatitis C infection and management of drug dependence;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to provide training and supervision relating to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV for all relevant staff working with persons who use drugs, including in police, social and health services and in prisons;

9. *Encourages* Member States to follow the *Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy*, produced by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and, when sentencing or deciding on pretrial measures for a pregnant woman or a woman who is a child's sole or primary caretaker, to use non-custodial measures where possible and appropriate;

10. *Calls upon* Member States, when taking steps to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, pursuant to the commitments contained in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030,[5] to ensure that such steps are also taken for persons in prison and women who use drugs, in order to qualify for World Health Organization certification of elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission, and invites the World Health Organization to include measures for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and syphilis in prisons and among women who use drugs when assessing whether a country can be certified as having eliminated such transmission;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the convening agency of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for matters relating to HIV and AIDS and drug use and in prisons, and the World Health Organization, as the convening agency for preventing babies from becoming infected with HIV and for HIV testing and treatment, in collaboration with other relevant co-sponsors and the secretariat of the Joint Programme, to support Member States in implementing relevant measures to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV for women who use drugs, based on international guidelines, in particular World Health Organization guidelines relevant to the prevention of such transmission;

12. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its HIV/AIDS Section, to continue providing its leadership and guidance on this issue, together with the World Health Organization and in partnership other relevant United Nations and government partners and civil society groups, including networks of people who use drugs, and to support States to increase their capacity and mobilize resources, including domestic investment, for the provision of comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment programmes;

13. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.